

Message Text

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TO AMEMBASSY KIGALI

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:EGEN

SUBJECT: WERTHEIM TEA PROJECT

REF: KIGALI 0473

1. COUNTRY OFFICER AND OPIC REP BOTH IN CONTACT WITH WERTHEIM WHO HIGHLY APPRECIATIVE INFO REFTEL. WERTHEIM SENT LETTER AUGUST 29 TO RIBANJE INFORMING HIM OF CONTINUED HIGH INTEREST IN PROJECT AND IMPORTANCE OF RECEIVING GOR STATEMENT FOR IFC. LETTER INFORMS GOR THAT WERTHEIM ALSO ATTEMPTING SECURE EXTERNAL FINANCING.
 2. WERTHEIM DEFINITELY WISHES PURSUE PROJECT BUT EMPHASIZED TO COUNTRY OFFICER HE NOT RPT NOT WILLING INCREASE PERSONAL FINANCIAL COMMITMENT.
 3. RE REFTEL PARA 2A: APPARENTLY GOR HAD NOT RECEIVED "RECENT NEWS FROM WERTHEIM" BECAUSE HE HAD NOTHING MORE TO SAY UNTIL GOR SENT STATEMENT FOR IFC. WERTHEIM SAYS GOR AWARE HE UNABLE MOVE FORWARD UNTIL LETTER RECEIVED.
 4. COMMENT: ALTHOUGH HE DEFINITELY REMAINS KEENLY INTERESTED, WERTHEIM PHILOSOPHICAL ABOUT POSSIBILITY OF LOSING INITIATIVE-TO CDC/FED. UNFORTUNATELY, HE INTENDS LEAVE NEXT WEEK FOR SIX WEEK TRIP TO CHINA AND WILL THEN
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BE UNAVAILABLE TO RESPOND TO QUESTIONS WHICH WILL UN-

DOUBTEDLY BE RAISED BY OPIC OR IFC. OPIC STILL NOT
SATISFIED WITH WERTHEIM PROPOSAL/FEASIBILITY STUDY WHICH
IT SEES AS VERY ROUGH AND RUDIMENTARY. HOWEVER OPIC DOES
APPEAR MORE POSITIVE THAN WAS ORIGINALLY THE CASE. BY
SAME TOKEN, IT VERY DOUBTFUL THAT OPIC/IFC WILL BE FORTH-
COMING WITH NECESSARY EARLY FINANCING DECISION. WHILE
OPIC WILLING GIVE PRIORITY CONSIDERATION TO PROJECT THEY
HAVE ALREADY STRESSED TO DEPARTMENT CONSIDERABLE TIME IT
WILL TAKE IN VIEW OF LIMITED NATURE OF WERTHEIM'S
PROPOSAL/FEASIBILITY STUDY. OPIC ALSO RAISED QUESTION RE
PARA 2B REFTTEL CONCERNING TEA PRODUCTION. IF IT TRUE
THAT FACTORY INTENDS PROCESS TEA FROM CYOHOHA/RUKERI
AREA WHICH FINANCED BY FED, OPIC'S FIRST REACTION IS
THAT IFC CANNOT PARTICIPATE IN PROJECT FINANCED BY
FOREIGN DONOR. DEPARTMENT ATTEMPTING TO PURSUE THIS
AND ENCOURAGING OPIC TO GIVE PROJECT PRIORITY CONSIDERATION
KISSINGER

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Message Attributes

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